

REMARKS

The claims are divided into Group I containing claims 1-17, Group II containing claims 18-26, and Group III containing claims 27-43. The Examiner has classified each of these Groups in separate subclasses. As will be described in further detail below, Applicant respectfully traverses the subclasses in which the claims have been categorized.

With respect to Group I, the Examiner asserts that the claims of Group I are drawn to comparing and determining at a third Access Point (AP) whether to send a registration request for a node based upon information received by a first AP from a second AP. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. In fact, while mobility for a node is supported, this is accomplished by sending access point information received from a second AP to a third AP. In other words, the access point information is shared among APs (e.g., via receiving, sending, and storing).

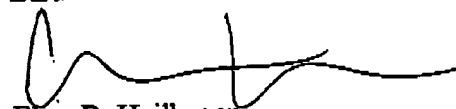
Similarly, with respect to Group III, the Examiner asserts that the claims of Group III are drawn to sending first AP information to one or more other APs, receiving AP information from the one or more other APs, and comparing and determining at the first AP whether to send a registration request for a node based upon the information received at the first AP from the one or more other APs. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. In essence, this set of claims is a counterpart to the claims of Group I. More particularly, access point information is shared among APs (e.g., via sending, receiving, and storing). Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of Group I should be examined with the claims of Group III.

The restriction requirement states that the inventions of Groups I-III are distinct because they are drawn to a distinct invention classified in distinct class/subclasses, as set forth above. While the claims of Group II relate to whether to provide service to a node (e.g., whether Mobile IP service is required), this determination is made using access point information such as that obtained as set forth in the claims of Groups I and III. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the claims of Group II should be examined with the claims of Groups I and III.

Even if the claims are drawn to patentably distinct or independent inventions, MPEP § 803 provides that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” Although the scope of the claims of Groups I, II, and III varies and Applicant agrees that the claims are patentably distinct, many of the claimed features are similar. For example, each of the claims relates to the sharing of access point information among APs (e.g., as in Groups I and III) or the use of such access point information (e.g., subnet information) to determine whether Mobile IP service is required on behalf of a node (e.g., as in Group II). Accordingly, although it is acknowledged that the inventions of Groups I-III are patentably distinct, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not unduly burden the examiner to simultaneously examine the claims of Groups I-III.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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